

Appl. No. 10/019,289
Reply to Office Action of January 23, 2004

Attorney Docket: P67515US0

REMARKS

Applicant recognizes with appreciation that Claims 27 – 30 are allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In this Amendment, Applicant has cancelled Claims 20 and 22 – 27, without prejudice or disclaimer, and has amended Claims 14, 21, 28 and 31. Claims 14, 21, 28 and 31 have been amended to overcome the rejections and further specify different embodiments of the invention. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter has been introduced by the amended claims. All claims are now present for examination in view of the accompanying remarks.

OBJECTIONS TO CLAIMS:

The phrase “low” (as in Claim 14) has been objected as being a relative term that is allegedly not defined by the claims and the specification.

It is respectfully submitted that the phrase “the low formality” has been deleted from Claims 14 and 31. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objections is respectfully requested.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102 (b):

Claims 14, 16, 26, 31 and 32 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (b) as allegedly being anticipated by Laffler (US 5,383,346), hereinafter Laffler.

It is respectfully submitted that in view of presently claimed invention, the rejection has been overcome. In particular, Claim 26 has been cancelled. The newly amended Claims 14 and 31 further specify a blocking step to prevent the assembled parts

Appl. No. 10/019,289
Reply to Office Action of January 23, 2004

Attorney Docket: P67515US0

from sliding along the junction section by selecting a method chosen from the group consisting of adhesive bonding and imbricating alternate serrated cut-outs made in the two simple sheets of metal parts in a region to be hem-assembled, said cut-outs being made with a press during manufacturing. As indicated by the Examiner, Claim 27 contains allowable subject matter. The amended Claims 14 and 31 include the allowable subject matter in the previously presented Claim 27. As recognized by the Examiner, no prior art disclose or suggest the allowable subject matter contained in the previously presented Claim 27, which is included in the amended Claims 14 and 31. Therefore, Laffler does not anticipate Claims 14, 16, 31 and 32.

The rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102 has been overcome. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102 is respectfully requested.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103:

Claims 14 – 19, 31 – 33 and 35 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103, as allegedly being obvious and unpatentable over Wessely (US 4,055,133), hereinafter Wessely. Claim 20 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103, as allegedly being obvious and unpatentable over Wessely in view of Ragsdale (US 2,125, 692), hereinafter Ragsdale. Claims 21 – 22 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103, as allegedly being obvious and unpatentable over Wessely in view of Nakata (US 3,151,767), hereinafter Nakata, and Lincavage (US 5,327,631), hereinafter Lincavage. Claim 23 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103, as allegedly being obvious and unpatentable over Wessely in view of Nakata. Claims 24 – 25 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103, as allegedly being obvious and unpatentable over Wessely in view of Nakata, and further in view of Zmyslowski (US 5,603,153), hereinafter Zmyslowski. Finally, Claim 34 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103, as allegedly being obvious and unpatentable over Wessely in view of Ragsdale.

It is respectfully submitted that in view of presently claimed invention, the rejection has been overcome. In particular, Claims 20 and 22 – 25 have been cancelled

Appl. No. 10/019,289
Reply to Office Action of January 23, 2004

Attorney Docket: P67515US0

without prejudice or disclaimer. Thus, the rejection to Claims 20 and 22 – 25 is moot. In addition, as stated above, Claims 14, 21 and 31 have been amended to further specify a blocking step to prevent the assembled parts from sliding along the junction section by selecting a method chosen from the group consisting of adhesive bonding and imbricating alternate serrated cut-outs made in the two simple sheets of metal parts in a region to be hem-assembled, said cut-outs being made with a press during manufacturing. The amended Claims 14, 21 and 31 include the allowable subject matter previously presented in Claim 27, which is not disclosed or suggested by any prior art, as recognized by the Examiner.

In addition, the amended Claims 14 and 31 also include “adhesive bonding,” which was previously presented in Claim 20. It is respectfully submitted that Claims 14 and 31 and their dependent claims are not obvious over Wessely in view of Ragsdale. As recognized by the Examiner, Wessely does not disclose blocking by binding. Ragsdale teaches that the elements have open section parts, preferably high tensile stainless steel, may be welded each to the other (page 2, left col., ll.14-16). Ragsdale does not disclose any assembling by common crimping or crimping at the hem (i.e. with two peripheral metal sheet elements rolled and bent over together and inwardly). Moreover, according to Ragsdale (page 1 left col., ll.50-55), the use of sheet metal strips formed into suitable cross sections and subsequently spot welded is providing extreme lightness and maximum strength. “Adhesive binding” is presented as a solution to prevent sliding of the assembled parts in the present application. As no positioning or assembling of said sheet metal strips by crimping was contemplated in Ragsdale, it is not surprising that the welding of the girder elements was certainly not intended by Ragsdale to overcome possible sliding problems. Furthermore, Ragsdale's teaching would not have been used by one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the present invention was made, as it was of general knowledge that high elastic limit steels may be of poor weldability (page 2, line 16), and securing the hem of high elastic limit metal parts by adhesive binding, contrary to welding, would be advantageous.

JUN. 18. 2004

9:25AM

JACOBSON HOLMAN PLLC

OFFICIAL

RECEIVED
CENTRAL FAX CENTER
NO. 957

Appl. No. 10/019,289

Reply to Office Action of January 23, 2004

Attorney Docket: P67515US0
JUN 18 2004

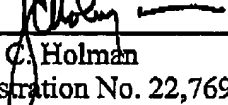
Therefore, no prior art, alone or in combination, discloses or teaches the embodiments of the present invention as defined in Claims 14 - 19, 21 and 31 - 35. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103 be withdrawn.

Having overcome all outstanding grounds of rejection, the application is now in condition for allowance, and prompt action toward that end is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

JACOBSON HOLMAN PLLC

Date: July 18, 2003
(202) 638-6666
400 Seventh Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004
JCH/jc
Atty. Dkt. No.: P67515US0

By 
John C. Holman
Registration No. 22,769